

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. No such request from the Government of Maharashtra to appoint atleast one State representative in the Commission has been received. There is also no policy for appointing atleast one representative from each State.

(c) and (d) The Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices is a permanent body consisting of a full-time Chairman, 3 official Members and 3 non-official Members. The non-official Members are intended to provide representation to the farming community and are normally appointed for a term of 3 years. The vacancies of non-official Members are filled-up as and when they arise and while doing so, an effort is generally made to provide regional balance to all the zones of the country.

(e) Does not arise in view of the reply to Part (a) of the question above.

#### **Research on Arecanuts by ICAR**

1037. SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Council for Agricultural Research is undertaking any research work in respect of arecanuts;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the stations where such research work is undertaken;

(c) whether any research has been carried out to ascertain the possibility of other uses of arecanuts;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to increase the production and boost the export of arecanuts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The research work on arecanut is carried out by Central Plantation Crops Research Institute, Kasaragod (Kerala) at its three regional stations located at Vittal (Karnataka), Mohit Nagar (West Bengal) and Kahikuchi (Assam). Arecanut research is also being supported under All India Co-ordinated Research Project at Hirehalli (Karnataka).

(c) and (d) Arecanut research is being concentrated on crop improvement, production technologies and control

of diseases and pests. Research on other uses of arecanut is not being done by ICAR.

(e) Four high yielding and superior varieties of arecanut namely Mangla, Sumangala, Sreemangla and Mohit Nagar have been released. These varieties are capable of producing 11 to 18 kg nuts/palm/year and has helped in substantially increasing the productivity of arecanut. The steady increase in area, production and productivity has helped to stop the import from Sri Lanka and Pakistan. Now, India is self sufficient in arecanut.

[Translation]

#### **Allocation of Edible Oil to States**

1038. SHRI VIJAY ANNAJI MUDE : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of edible oils allocated to various States particularly to Maharashtra during 1995-96 and 1996-97, separately;

(b) whether the quantity allocated is adequate to meet the demand of the States;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether requests have been received from various States to enhance their quota of the edible oils;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGHUVANS PRASAD SINGH) : (a) A *statement* is annexed.

(b) and (c) Supply of imported edible oil through the PDS is supplemental. Limited quantity of palmolein is imported and distributed to States/UTs from the Central Pool to augment open market availability during the lean season/major festivals if considered necessary by the Government.

(d) and (e) During the year 1996-97 several States like Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Manipur, Maharashtra, Orissa & West Bengal had requested Central Government to enhance their monthly quota of imported palmolein for the PDS.

(f) Due to reasons indicated in reply to parts (b) and (c) above, a fixed quantity of edible oil allowed to be